

**PROMOTER DRIVEN TISSUE SPECIFIC CYTOTOXIC  
AGENTS AND METHODS OF USE**

**ABSTRACT**

[199] This invention relates to a recombinant nucleic acid for an RIP-tk (rat insulin promoter-thymidine kinase) construct that selectively targets insulin secreting cells, such as  $\beta$ -cells, PDX-1 positive human pancreatic ductal carcinomas, and other cells containing certain transcription factors. The present invention is useful in the treatment of pancreatic cancers, such as  $\beta$ -cell insulinomas and can also be used to target pancreatic tumors that do not express insulin, such as pancreatic adenocarcinoma.